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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Veterans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON**
4 **LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER,**
5 **AND QUEER VETERANS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter III of chapter 5
7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at
8 the end the following new section:

1 **“§ 548. Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisex-**
2 **ual, Transgender, and Queer Veterans**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Department
4 the Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
5 Transgender, and Queer Veterans (in this section referred
6 to as ‘the Committee’).

7 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—(1) The Committee shall consist
8 of members appointed by the Secretary from the general
9 public, including—

10 “(A) representatives of LGBTQ veterans;

11 “(B) individuals who are recognized authorities
12 in fields pertinent to the needs of LGBTQ veterans,
13 including the specific health-care needs of LGBTQ
14 veterans;

15 “(C) representatives of LGBTQ veterans with
16 service-connected disabilities, including at least one
17 lesbian, gay, or bisexual veteran with a service-con-
18 nected disability, and at least one transgender vet-
19 eran with a service-connected disability;

20 “(D) Veterans who are minority group mem-
21 bers, as defined in section 544 of this title; and

22 “(E) LGBTQ veterans who are recently sepa-
23 rated from service in the Armed Forces, including
24 veterans who were involuntarily separated from the
25 Armed Forces due to being LGBTQ.

1 “(2) The Committee shall include, as ex officio mem-
2 bers—

3 “(A) the Secretary of Labor (or the designee of
4 the Secretary of Labor after consultation with the
5 Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employ-
6 ment);

7 “(B) the Secretary of Defense (or the designee
8 of the Secretary of Defense);

9 “(C) the Under Secretary for Health (or the
10 designee of such Under Secretary); and

11 “(D) the Under Secretary for Benefits (or the
12 designee of such Under Secretary).

13 “(3) The Secretary may invite representatives of
14 other Federal departments and agencies to participate in
15 the meetings and other activities of the Committee.

16 “(4) The Secretary shall determine the number,
17 terms of service, and pay and allowances of members of
18 the Committee appointed by the Secretary, except that a
19 term of service of any such member may not exceed three
20 years. The Secretary may reappoint any such member for
21 additional terms of service.

22 “(5) The Committee shall meet as often as the Sec-
23 retary determines necessary or appropriate, but not less
24 often than twice each fiscal year.

1 “(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult
2 regularly with and seek the advice of the Committee with
3 respect to the administration of benefits by the Secretary
4 for LGBTQ veterans, reports and studies pertaining to
5 LGBTQ veterans and the needs of LGBTQ veterans with
6 respect to compensation, health care, rehabilitation, out-
7 reach, and other benefits and programs administered by
8 the Secretary, including the Center for Women Veterans
9 and Center for Minority Veterans.

10 “(d) REPORTING.—(1) Not later than July 1 of each
11 even-numbered year, the Committee shall submit to the
12 Secretary a report on the programs and activities of the
13 Department that pertain to LGBTQ veterans. Each such
14 report shall include—

15 “(A) an assessment of the needs of LGBTQ
16 veterans with respect to compensation, health care,
17 rehabilitation, outreach, and other benefits and pro-
18 grams administered by the Secretary;

19 “(B) a review of the programs and activities of
20 the Department designed to meet such needs; and

21 “(C) such recommendations (including rec-
22 ommendations for administrative and legislative ac-
23 tion) as the Committee determines appropriate.

24 “(2) The Secretary shall, not later than 60 days after
25 receiving each report under paragraph (1), submit to the

1 Congress a copy of the report, together with any com-
2 ments concerning the report that the Secretary determines
3 appropriate.

4 “(3) The Committee may also submit to the Sec-
5 retary such other reports and recommendations the Com-
6 mittee determines appropriate.

7 “(4) The Secretary shall submit, with each annual
8 report submitted to Congress pursuant to section 529 of
9 this title, a summary of all reports and recommendations
10 of the Committee received by the Secretary since the pre-
11 vious such annual report.

12 “(e) LGBTQ DEFINED.—In this section, the term
13 ‘LGBTQ’ means lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or
14 queer.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
17 after the item relating to section 547 the following new
18 item:

“548. Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer
Veterans.”.